Oral History

Interviewer: Maria Pacheco

Mom: Luz Elena Reza

* Where are you originally from?
  + “I’m from a rancho called Tlacotes in Zacatecas, Mexico.”
* What was it like growing up in Mexico?
  + Life in the rancho was tough. Money was tight and everyone in the house worked some way or another whether it is in the house or working outside the house.
* If you were working all the time what did you do about school?
  + School was difficult to attend even though my back door leads to the front of the school. I rarely attended school and when I did the teacher would whip us with the rule because many of us rarely attended school. My parents made it known that school was not a priority. My priority was in the house helping my mother. I only attended school till the 6th grade and then my parents made me stop going because my mom needed me at home.
* How many brothers and sisters do you have?
  + Brothers: 6
  + Sisters:3- 4 including myself
  + My younger sister Juanice was the only one of us who was able to actually attend school up to what you would consider high school here.
* Family Order (oldest to youngest):
  + Guerrmo, Nicolas, Me, Hector, Rula, Rul, Rosies, Juanice, Chile, Agustin
* What were the roles for your brothers?
  + My father and brothers worked in the fields and construction.
  + They provided for the family.
* What were the roles for you and your sisters?
  + We had to cook, clean, and wait on the men.
  + At times we were allowed to get work outside of the house by doing laundry/cleaning for others. Pay was very little and it went straight to my dad.
* What made you decide to move to the United States?
  + A couple of my brothers were going to cross the border illegally and my parents finally decided to let me go. We already had family there and they assured us that they could get us jobs and a place to stay.
* How did you cross the border?
  + My family in the states came to pick me up in a truck. When we were getting close to the border they stuck me under the back seat of the truck. I barely fit and I was very uncomfortable but it had to be done. My brothers were not so lucky. They had to cross the border by foot with one gallon of water. They had to pay lots of money to have the cayote get them across. This form of crossing was too risky for my but a few years later your tia Monica crossed by walking and she was 6 months pregnant. She says it was the hardest thing she had to do. These trips lasted days some times over a week. The cayotes decided when they were ready to leave and take breaks.
* What was your first job in the states?
  + I worked at Western Village Casino cleaning tables.
* Where did you meet my dad?
  + We met when I worked at Western Village. He would always come in and say hello to me. I spoke no English so he would have to talk with me in Spanish. My brothers were very protective of my and I wasn’t able to date, so your dad had to come to the house and talk with me with my brothers there.
* When did you get married?
  + Oct. 27, 1984 to Marco A. Gil
  + Your papa (grandpa on my dads side) walked me down the church isle because my parents could not be there.
* When did you start working at Circus Circus?
  + Your dad helped my get a job in the wordrobe department in 84’. This was my second and last job. )Still works there)
* How many kids do you have?
  + 5 boys and 1 girl
  + Marco, you (Maria), Donny, Jessy, Juan Pablo, Daniel

Grandparents: Moms side

Nicolas Reza

Paz de la Reza

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Leisure | Work | Clothes | Technology | Animals |
| Rebote | Chores | Jeans | TV | Horses |
| Baseball | Cooking | Boots | Boom box | Chickens |
| Family get together | Field work | Loose clothing | Truck and Car | Donkeys |
|  | Building houses | Used clothes | Tractors | Cows |

Marco A. Gil: Dad

* When were you born?
  + 12/11/62
* What was your education like?
  + I started college but I didn’t finish.
* How many brothers do you have?
  + 2 brothers one from another mother
* Where were you born?
  + San Jose

Grandparents: Dads side

* Name: Aurora de la tora / Miguel Gil (divorced) Don Davis (last husband: passed away)
* When were you born? Where?
  + 8/3/40
* When did you first marry?
  + Nov. 16, 1959
* Second marriage?
  + Jan. 9, 1988
* How many kids do you have?
  + 2 boys
  + Marco and Miguel
* What was the name of your business?
  + Auroras Café
  + 5750 So. Virginia St.
* What were your parents names?
  + Antonio De la Tora
  + Ramona Beard